

World Mission
Sunday
October 19, 2025

MISSIONARIES
OF HOPE

among the Peoples



What is World Mission Sunday?

A Global Day of Prayer and Solidarity for the Missions.

An Annual, Universal Celebration

World Mission Sunday is the one Sunday each year when the entire Catholic Church comes together in prayer, reflection, and sacrificial giving for the missions. On that day, there is a global collection – the only one mandated by the Code of Canon Law (see Canon 791.4) – taken in every parish, in every diocese, in every country for the support of the missions.



Established in 1926 by Pope Pius XI, World Mission Sunday is coordinated by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies. Its purpose is to sustain more than 1,124 mission territories – places where the Church is young, often materially poor, and sometimes persecuted, but where the seed of the Gospel is being planted and nourished.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith provides support for pastoral and catechetical programs, church construction, healthcare, and education in mission territories.

A Mission Rooted in History

World Mission Sunday traces its roots to Blessed Pauline Jaricot, a 19th-century French laywoman who mobilized prayer and support for the Church's missionary efforts. Her first fundraising circles helped support the Church in the United States – then a mission territory itself – until 1908. Today, U.S. Catholics return that generosity by supporting the missionary work of the Church throughout Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America, and parts of Europe and the Middle East.



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A Day That Makes a Real Impact

Thanks to the generosity of Catholics in the United States, in 2024 World Mission Sunday helped:

- Support the formation of 82,498 seminarians
- Sustain the work of 258,540 religious sisters
- Equip 843,785 catechists
- Maintain 8,749 orphanages and shelters for children
- Build 570 new churches

Led by the Church's Chief Missionary

This will be the first World Mission Sunday under Pope Leo XIV, the first pope from the United States and the first in modern times to have spent most of his priestly life as a missionary. His pastoral experience in Peru gives weight to his words when, on May 22, 2025, he described the Pontifical Mission Societies as “the primary means for awakening missionary responsibility among all the baptized [and for] supporting ecclesial communities in areas where the Church is young.”

We see this mission expressed in the work of the four Pontifical Mission Societies:

- **The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**, which provides pastoral support, catechesis, church construction, healthcare, and education.
- **The Missionary Childhood Association (Holy Childhood)**, which supports faith formation and care for the needs and protection of children.
- **The Society of Saint Peter the Apostle**, which supports vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the missions.
- **The Pontifical Missionary Union, which forms clergy**, religious, and lay faithful for missionary discipleship.

More Than a Collection

World Mission Sunday is not just a second collection. It is the Church's annual call to put the missions and evangelization at the center of our life and parish communities. It reminds us that every Catholic is by baptism, a missionary disciple, and that our own nation was once mission territory, sustained by the very collection we now have the privilege to support.

Let us respond — together with each other and with Pope Leo — as Missionaries of Hope among the Peoples.

<https://adw.org/about-us/who-we-are/missions/world-mission-sunday/>